

IN THE CLAIMS:

Please substitute the following claims for the pending claims with the same number:

1 12. (currently amended) A method for limiting the operational life of software in
2 a network environment, the method comprising:
3 providing a program applet ~~embedded~~ with an ~~associated~~ a
4 password embedded therewithin to a client computer via a network;
5 receiving from said program applet via said network a request for
6 information stored in a restricted access storage area of a server computer;
7 ~~further~~ automatically receiving from said program applet said
8 ~~associated~~ embedded password, for authentication;
9 authenticating said ~~associated~~ embedded password by the server
10 computer and not by the program applet;
11 thereafter providing said information to said program applet via
12 said network while said ~~associated~~ embedded password is valid; and
13 invalidating said embedded password coincident with an
14 invalidation event.

1 13. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said ~~associated~~ embedded password at a
3 predetermined time.

1 14. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said ~~associated~~ embedded password after
3 lapse of a predetermined ~~elapsed~~ time from when said request was received.

1 15. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said
2 invalidating comprises invalidating said ~~associated~~ embedded password upon the
3 detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1 16. (canceled)

1 17. (canceled)

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1 18. (currently amended) A method according to claim 12 wherein said providing
2 comprises generating said ~~associated~~ embedded password ~~at a server upon~~
3 ~~receiving said request at said server.~~

1 27. (currently amended) A network-based software authentication system
2 comprising a server computer, the server computer comprising:

3 a password generator;
4 password validation apparatus;
5 a restricted-access storage area;
6 a program applet; and
7 invalidation apparatus;

8 wherein said server is operative to:

9 a) cause said password generator to generate a password;
10 b) embed said password within said program applet, and provide
11 said program applet ~~embedded~~ with said password embedded therewithin to a
12 client via a network;

13 c) receive a request for information and automatically receive
14 said embedded password, from said program applet via said network, for
15 authentication, without manual entry of the password by a user, from said
16 ~~program applet via said network~~;

17 d) authenticate said embedded password using said password
18 validation apparatus and not by said program applet;

19 e) provide said information to said program applet via said
20 network while said ~~associated~~ embedded password is valid; and

21 f) invalidate said embedded password using said invalidation
22 apparatus coincident with an invalidation event.

1 28. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the arrival of a predetermined time.

1 29. (currently amended) A system according to claim 27 wherein said
2 invalidation event comprises the elapsing lapsing of a predetermined ~~elapsed~~ time
3 from when said request was received.

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1 30. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said invalidation event
2 comprises the detection of a loss of communication with said client.

1 31. (canceled)

1 32. (canceled)

1 33. (original) A system according to claim 27 wherein said password is generated
2 at said server computer ~~upon receiving said request at said server.~~

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